Amendments to the Claims

1-37 (Canceled).

38. (Currently amended) A method of ~~modulating~~ inhibiting TRAF mediated signal transduction in a tumor cell expressing a TRAF polypeptide comprising introducing into said tumor cell a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of: a) a native sequence TRAF inhibitor (I-TRAF) polypeptide, b) a polypeptide having at least ~~70%~~ 90% sequence identity with ~~the TRAF binding domain of~~ a native sequence I-TRAF polypeptide and capable of inhibiting a TRAF-mediated signaling event, and c) a fragment of a) ~~or b)~~ comprising the TRAF-binding domain of said native sequence I-TRAF polypeptide and capable of inhibiting a TRAF-mediated signaling event; whereby said nucleic acid is expressed in said cell, and the resultant gene product ~~modulates~~ inhibits TRAF-mediated signal transduction in said cell.

39. (Currently amended) A method of ~~modulating~~ inhibiting TRAF mediated signaling in a tumor cell expressing TRAF comprising:

culturing a tumor cell comprising a nucleic acid molecule encoding a TRAF inhibitor polypeptide (I-TRAF) comprising an amino acid sequence having at least ~~60%~~ 90% sequence identity to an I-TRAF polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a human I-TRAF polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 5;

(b) a murine I-TRAF-α polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 1;

(c) a murine I-TRAF-β polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 1 and SEQ ID NO: 3 being additionally present at the N-terminus of the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1;

(d) a truncated murine I-TRAF-α polypeptide ending with amino acids ValThrValLeuHis (VTVLH) following amino acid Gln (Q) at position 354 (SEQ ID NO: 9);

(e) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 1-202 of SEQ ID NO: 5;

(f) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 35-236 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the equivalent part of a human I-TRAF sequence; and

(g) a TRAF2 binding fragment of the polypeptide of any one of (a)-(f);

under conditions suitable for expression of the I-TRAF polypeptide from the nucleic acid molecule, wherein the polypeptide or polypeptide fragment of (a)-(g) is capable of inhibiting a TRAF-mediated signaling event.

40. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes an I-TRAF polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 or the amino acid sequence of amino acid residues 1-202 of SEQ ID NO: 5.

41. (Currently amended) A method of ~~modulating~~ inhibiting TRAF mediated signaling in a tumor cell expressing TRAF comprising:

introducing into said tumor cell a nucleic acid molecule encoding an I-TRAF polypeptide~~.~~; and expressing the I-TRAF polypeptide from the nucleic acid molecule, wherein the nucleic acid ~~molecule is capable of hybridizing under stringent conditions to any one of the nucleic acid sequences~~ comprises a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7 and SEQ ID NO: 8.

42. (Canceled)

43. (Currently amended) The method of claim 39, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least ~~70%~~ 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 5, wherein the polypeptide can bind to TRAF2.

44-45. (Canceled)

46. (Currently amended) The method of claim 39, wherein the tumor cell is ~~an Epstein Barr virus associated tumor~~ a cell of Burkitt's lymphoma or nasopharyngal carcinoma.